

## **Remarks Following a Meeting With Organizations That Support the United States Military in Iraq and Afghanistan**

*October 20, 2006*

I've had an uplifting and heartwarming conversation with fellow citizens of all ages from across our country who are supporting our troops. These folks don't really care about politics; what they care about is how best to send a strong message to the men and women who wear our uniform that America supports them.

And so we've had examples of people who started web pages to get different supplies to send to troops who are—who need a care package; to a woman who started a group of people to sew garments to help the wounded recover faster; to a guy who helped start video conferencing capabilities so that loved ones can share big moments in their lives together, even though one is in combat; to a child who started treasure hunts to raise money to help kids go to school. It's a remarkable country when we have people who decide to step up and help men and women who are serving their country in a time of need.

And I want to thank you all for coming, and I appreciate what you're doing. [Americasupportsyou.mil](http://Americasupportsyou.mil) is a web site where our fellow citizens can volunteer to help. You can become a part of a group and find out ways that you can support our men and women in uniform. These are brave, courageous people who deserve the full support of the American citizenry.

So I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate you being here. Thanks very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest an-

nounced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **October 14**

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC. He and Mrs. Bush then traveled to Arlington, VA. Later, they traveled to Camp David, MD.

#### **October 15**

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared an emergency in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by a lake-effect snowstorm on October 12 and continuing.

#### **October 16**

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India and President Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. Then, in the Oval Office, he met with Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore.

Later in the morning, the President participated in an interview with Bill O'Reilly of FOX News, for later broadcast.

During the day, the President had a briefing on the October 15 earthquake and aftershocks in Hawaii.

The President declared a major disaster in Alaska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides on August 15–25.

#### **October 17**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a bill signing ceremony for H.R. 5122, the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, which was assigned Public Law No. 109–364. He then met with United Nations Secretary-General-designate Ban Ki-Moon.

The President declared a major disaster in Hawaii and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the